

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reducing the recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.  
5
2. The method according to claim 1 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.
3. The method according to claim 2 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.
- 10 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an acute treatment.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an elective treatment.
- 15 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the patient is suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
8. A method of reducing the severity of recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.  
20
9. The method according to claim 8 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

10. The method according to claim 9 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.
11. The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an acute treatment.
- 5 12. The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an elective treatment.
13. The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.
14. The method according to claim 8 wherein the patient is suffering from chronic  
10 obstructive pulmonary disease.